

APPENDIX 1: CLAIMS

1. A panel assembly for a modular office furniture system, the panel assembly comprising:

a rigid frame assembly having a plurality of support brackets attached thereto;

a plurality of individual facing panel members having a front side, a mounting side, a top portion and a bottom portion, the mounting side including means for individually mounting each of said plurality of facing panel members to said support brackets such that (individual cavities) are formed between the rigid frame assembly and each of said plurality of facing panels; and

a crown member attached to a top portion of the rigid frame assembly, the crown member adapted to mount thereon office furniture accessories.

2. The panel assembly as recited in claim 1, wherein the rigid frame assembly comprises a plurality of vertical supports having opposing sides and a pair of bottom facing panels, each of said bottom facing panels attached to each of said opposing sides whereby a box beam structure is fabricated to form the rigid frame assembly.

6. The panel assembly as recited in claim 1, wherein the mounting side of said facing panels further comprises a first panel mounting clip attached to the top portion of the mounting side and a second panel mounting clip attached to the bottom portion of the mounting side.

7. The panel assembly as recited in claim 1, wherein each of said plurality of support brackets further comprises top support brackets, bottom support brackets and intermediate support brackets.

8. The panel assembly as recited in claim 7, wherein said top support brackets are adapted to be attached to the top portion of said facing panels, said bottom support brackets are adapted to be attached to the bottom portion of said facing panels, and said intermediate support brackets are adapted to be attached to the top portion of one of said facing panels and to the bottom portion of another of said facing panels.

9. The panel assembly as recited in claim 8, wherein the rigid frame assembly comprises a plurality of vertical supports having opposing sides and a pair of bottom facing panels, each of said bottom facing panels secured to each of said opposing sides whereby a box beam structure is fabricated to form the rigid frame assembly.

10. The panel assembly as recited in claim 9, wherein said bottom support brackets are also adapted to be mechanically secured to said bottom facing panels.

11. The panel assembly as recited in claim 1, wherein said plurality of facing panels are removably mounted to said rigid frame assembly.

12. The panel assembly as recited in claim 8, wherein said intermediate support brackets further comprise an upper facing panel attachment member adapted to be pivotally attached to the top portion of the one of said facing panels and a lower facing panel attachment member adapted to be frictionally attached to the bottom portion of the other of said facing panels.

13. The panel assembly as recited in claim 1, wherein the rigid frame assembly further comprises base members for supporting the panel assembly in a freestanding manner.

15. The panel assembly as recited in claim 1, wherein a plurality of individual facing panel members are mounted between the crown member and said bottom facing panels such that a first horizontal joint exists between one of said individual facing panel members and one of

said bottom facing panels and a second horizontal joint exists between another of said individual facing panel members and the crown member.

16. The panel assembly as recited in claim 15, further comprising a third horizontal joint between said one individual facing panel member and said another individual facing panel member, whereby said horizontal joints provide a passageway for cabling.

17. A panel assembly for a modular office furniture system, the panel assembly comprising:

a rigid frame assembly;

a facing panel assembly;

means for mounting the facing panel assembly to the rigid frame assembly whereby an unobstructed cavity is formed between the rigid frame assembly and the facing panel assembly; and

a crown member having means for supporting office furniture accessories thereon attached to a top portion of the rigid frame assembly, wherein said supporting means of the crown member comprises an upper angled clamping surface, a lower angled clamping surface and an inclined mounting surface therebetween such that the lower angled clamping surface is generally spaced apart from the rigid frame assembly.

18. The panel assembly as recited in claim 17, wherein the mounting bracket comprises an upmount bracket.

52. A freestanding panel assembly for a modular office furniture system, the panel assembly comprising:

a rigid frame assembly having a top portion and a bottom portion, the rigid frame assembly further comprised of:

i) a plurality of vertical supports having opposing sides; and
ii) a pair of bottom facing panels, one each of said bottom facing panels attached to the bottom portion on each of said opposing sides whereby a box beam structure is fabricated to form the rigid frame assembly;

a plurality of facing panels, each of said plurality of facing panels including an outward facing front side and an inward facing mounting side, a top portion and a bottom portion;

means a first panel mounting clip attached to the top portion of the mounting side and a second panel mounting clip attached to the bottom portion of the mounting side for individually mounting each of said plurality of facing panels to the rigid frame assembly such that a plurality of unobstructed cavities are formed between the rigid frame assembly and each of said plurality of facing panels; and

a crown member attached to the top portion of the rigid frame assembly.

54. The freestanding panel assembly as recited in claim 52, wherein a plurality of individual facing panel members are mounted between the crown member and said bottom facing panels such that a first horizontal joint exists between one of said individual facing panel members and one of said bottom facing panels and a second horizontal joint exists between another of said individual facing panel members and the crown member.

55. The freestanding panel assembly as recited in claim 52, wherein the crown member comprises an upper angled clamping surface, a lower angled clamping surface and an inclined mounting surface therebetween such that the lower angled clamping surface is generally spaced apart from the rigid frame assembly, the crown member adapted to engage a mounting bracket having a complimentary engagement surface for supporting office furniture accessories thereon.

56. The freestanding panel assembly as recited in claim 52, the crown member comprising:

means for attaching the crown member to a top portion of a panel assembly;

a first upmount portion disposed on a first surface of the panel assembly and comprised of a first upper angled clamping surface, a first lower angled clamping surface and a first inclined mounting surface therebetween such that the first lower angled clamping surface is generally spaced apart from the panel assembly whereby the first upmount portion generally projects in an upward orientation;

a second upmount portion disposed on a second surface of the panel assembly and comprised of a second upper angled clamping surface, a second lower angled clamping surface and a second inclined mounting surface therebetween disposed on a second surface on the top portion of the panel assembly, the second surface being directly opposite the first surface; and

a recessed channel disposed between said first and second upper angled clamping members.